

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 00888 220557Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 DOE-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 SOE-02 SS-15 OES-07  
/082 W

-----113032 220603Z /17

R 220447Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4992  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
DMA WASHDC  
DMATC WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 00888

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, TSPA, NZ  
SUBJECT: SEASAT-A SATELLITE OBSERVATION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 42627

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT GNZ OFFICIALS  
MAY HARBOR MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CAPABILITIES AND PROGRAMS  
OF SEASAT. GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION IS REQUESTED BY  
MARCH 8 TO ENABLE SCIENCE OFFICER TO PARTICIPATE  
USEFULLY IN SYMPOSIUM CALLED TO DISCUSS SEASAT. END  
SUMMARY.

2. DMATC EMPLOYEES ARRIOLA AND TICHNOR CALLED ON  
EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER FEBRUARY 1 TO INFORM HIM OF THE  
CLOSE-OUT OF THE 30-MONTH GEOS-3 PROGRAM. TICHNOR  
ADVISED THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL OF RETURNING TO NEW ZEALAND  
IN MAY 1978, TOGETHER WITH TEAM LEADER BRIAN TALLMAN,  
TO INITIATE SEASAT PROGRAM.

3. SCIENCE OFFICER SUGGESTED TO TICHNOR THAT DMA FULLY  
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BRIEF GNZ EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING THE  
CAPABILITIES AND PROGRAMS OF SEASAT IN ORDER THAT ANY  
POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS COULD BE AVERTED. SPECIFICALLY  
MENTIONED WERE THE PERHAPS INFLATED AND UNDEFINED  
EXPECTATIONS OF NEW ZEALAND DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC  
AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (DSIR), MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD),  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (MAF), AND LANDS

AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH NEW ZEALAND'S SURVEYOR GENERAL, IAN STERLING, SCIENCE OFFICER SIMILARLY EMPHASIZED THE BENEFITS OF DMA AND GNZ'S EMBASSY OFFICIALS GETTING TOGETHER IN WASHINGTON FOR A FULL REVIEW OF SEASAT CAPABILITIES BEFORE THE PROGRAM ACTUALLY BEGINS. STERLING WAS URGED TO MAKE SUCH A REQUEST THROUGH THE NEW ZEALAND MFA TO NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY. AS AN EXAMPLE, SCIENCE OFFICER IDENTIFIED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT NEW ZEALAND'S MOD AND MAF OFFICIALS ARE INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING SEASAT AS AN ASSIST TO THEIR PATROLLING OF NEW ZEALAND FISHERIES AND 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.

5. SCIENCE OFFICER HAS NOW BEEN REQUESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN MARCH 8 SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZED BY DSIR TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES OF A NEW ZEALAND SATELLITE RECEIVING STATION AND THE ADVANTAGES TO NEW ZEALAND OF PARTICIPATING IN THE SEASAT PROGRAM. IT IS CLEAR THAT SEVERAL GNZ AGENCIES ARE HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SEASAT, BUT BECAUSE THE PARTICIPATION OF OFFICIALS FROM MOD AND MAF WAS ALSO MENTIONED, SCIENCE OFFICER IS CONCERNED THAT GNZ OFFICIALS NOT HARBOR ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITH RESPECT TO SEASAT CAPABILITIES AND PROGRAMS. IF THERE ARE SUCH MISCONCEPTIONS, SYMPOSIUM  
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WOULD BE GOOD TIME TO BEGIN PROCESS OF DISPELLING THEM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IF POSSIBLE, SCIENCE OFFICER WOULD APPRECIATE BEFORE MARCH 8 UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION (IN ADDITION TO THAT OF REFTEL) WHICH COULD BE USED IN DISCUSSING SEASAT AT SYMPOSIUM. FOR INSTANCE, WHAT PROGRAMS WILL BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO GNZ INTERESTS? WILL IT HAVE FISHERY SURVEILLANCE AND RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION ABILITIES? (DSIR SAYS IT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY JIM DUNN (?) OF PASADENA PROPULSION LABORATORY THAT SATELLITE WILL BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY FISHING SHIPS.) CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING DATA IN REAL TIME TO A NEW ZEALAND RECEIVING STATION? OFFER SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN NEW ZEALAND MAPPING PROGRAMS? HEALY

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** SEASAT-A SATELLITE OBSERVATION PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** MARR, TSPA, NZ  
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